

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the application with their U.S. representative, Mr. Steven Wegman, on November 12, 2009. During the telephone interview, Applicants' representative noted that the Office Action Summary sheet indicates that claims 10-13 are objected to, but that no ground for the objection was set forth in the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action. Furthermore, the only rejection set forth in the Office Action appeared to be with respect to claims 14 and 15. The Examiner stated that claims 10-13 are actually allowable over the art of record, as noted by comments on page 5 of the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action. The Examiner indicated that if a response was filed canceling claims 14 and 15 (which are rejected in the Office Action), he would issue a Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 10-13.

Accordingly, Applicants herewith cancel claims 14 and 15, which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. While Applicants disagree with the rejection, Applicants cancel the claims in order to quickly obtain the allowance of claims 10-13, as suggested by the Examiner in the above-noted telephone interview. Such cancellation is not to be taken as acquiescing to the appropriateness of the rejection, but merely as a desire to quickly obtain allowance of the application. Further, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit another application containing claims based upon the canceled claims.

In view of the present amendment, Applicants submit that claims 10-13 are allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections in the application, to indicate the allowability of pending claims 10-13, and to pass the application to issue.

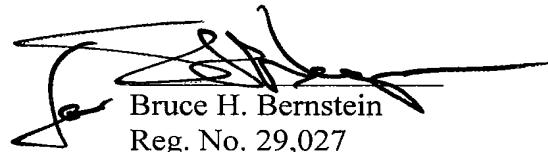
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

December 15, 2009
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 716-1191